



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date June 28, 2006

*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

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## **ARIZONA MAN SENTENCED FOR ATTEMPTING TO BRING MEXICAN WOMEN TO THE UNITED STATES AS PROSTITUTES**

PHOENIX – Claude Herbert Suddreth, Jr., 40, of Lake Havasu and Goodyear, Arizona, was sentenced here on June 26, 2006, by U.S. District Judge Mary H. Murguia. The government requested a sentence of 15 months incarceration, as determined under the advisory Sentencing Guidelines; the Court imposed a sentence of 15 months but split the sentence between incarceration and home confinement, that is, 7 ½ months in prison followed by an additional 7 ½ months of home detention under electronic monitoring. The Court also fined defendant \$3,000.00. Suddreth had pleaded guilty on January 23, 2006, to an indictment charging him with Attempted Importation of Aliens for Prostitution.

U.S. Attorney Paul Charlton stated: "This case demonstrates that there are people who would exploit illegal immigrants, who would traffic in human beings, and who would sell them like animals."

On March 14, 2005, an undercover agent from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement responded to an internet advertisement posted by defendant. In the advertisement, defendant sought escorts for work in Las Vegas, and specifically encouraged "international ladies" aged 18 to 35 to apply. The undercover agent set up a sting operation in which he posed as a broker and offered to provide three illegal aliens from Mexico to defendant. Over the next several weeks, the agent and defendant corresponded extensively by electronic mail to discuss the specific sexual acts the women would be expected to perform, in addition to the 50% commission to be received by defendant out of the payment for each sex act. Defendant also advised the undercover agent to exercise caution in bringing the women to the United States, in order to avoid civilian patrols set up in and around the border area.

The undercover agent arranged two face-to-face meetings with defendant. After the first meeting defendant informed the agent that he was in the process of buying new sheets, preparing bedrooms for the women and purchasing toiletries for their use. Defendant came to the second meeting in Parker, Arizona on April 27, 2005 intending to take three Mexican women in a large SUV to his house in Lake Havasu. Agents arrested him at the second meeting and, in a subsequent search of his house, found beds fitted with new sheets in addition to large quantities of women's deodorant and shampoo.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution is being handled by Gary M. Restaino, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-444-PHX-MHM  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-112(Suddreth)

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